Unofficial Copy R7 2000 Regular Session 0lr2782 CF 0lr1876

By: Senator Ruben

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000

Assigned to: Finance

## A BILL ENTITLED

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|---|------------|--------|------------|
| - | '          |        | concerning |

Transportation - Mass Transit - Implementation of User-Friendly Policies for Children, Youth, and Families

4 FOR the purpose of requesting that the Maryland Department of Transportation in

- 5 conjunction with local transit agencies evaluate, and where feasible, implement
- 6 policies to promote and encourage the usage of mass transit by children, youth,
- 7 and families; requesting that the Department and local transit agencies consult
- 8 with interested parties and hold certain public hearings to receive certain
- 9 information regarding the implementation of policies that promote the usage of
- mass transit by children, youth, and families; requiring the Department to issue
- 11 a report of its findings and recommendations; and generally relating to the
- consideration and possible adoption of policies that might promote the usage of
- mass transit by children, youth, and families by the Maryland Department of
- 14 Transportation and local transit agencies.

15 Preamble

- WHEREAS, In its final report issued in December 1999, the Commission on
- 17 Transportation Investment that was created by the General Assembly in the 1999
- 18 Session concluded that "[B]y the year 2020, Maryland's population will increase by
- 19 more than 1,000,000 to a total of 6,000,000 citizens, [that] there will be 700,000 more
- 20 jobs in the State, and [that] vehicle miles traveled in Maryland will increase from 48
- 21 billion to 68 billion, or nearly twice the rate of population growth ... "; and
- 22 WHEREAS, The Commission recommended that mass transit projects and
- 23 services "... should be expanded to meet the goal of increasing patronage from 570,000
- 24 to 1,000,000 riders a day by 2020 ... "; and
- 25 WHEREAS, The Commission further recommended that the State should
- 26 allocate its " ... available resources [for projects] ... to reduce congestion, implement
- 27 Smart Growth strategies that offer travel choices, foster livable communities, and
- 28 promote economic opportunities throughout the State ... "; and
- 29 WHEREAS, Increased mass transit usage is an important component of
- 30 environmental preservation and the maintenance of livable communities throughout

- 1 the State, is wholly consistent with the State's Smart Growth policies, and will reduce
- 2 highway congestion and the need for massive highway improvement projects; and
- 3 WHEREAS, State officials and leaders also have a strong commitment to
- 4 policies that promote the health, intellectual development, and vibrancy of all of its
- 5 citizens especially its children, youth, and families and recognize that
- 6 transportation policies that promote those goals while simultaneously enhancing the
- 7 opportunity for family-friendly outings and activities provide multiple societal and
- 8 governmental benefits; and
- 9 WHEREAS, It is in the State's interest to educate and expose children and
- 10 youth to systems of mass transit at an early age so that they may better appreciate
- 11 the benefits and potential of mass transit and thereby become more likely to readily
- 12 utilize mass transit when they become adults; and
- WHEREAS, Many of the State's children and youth and other vulnerable
- 14 populations often do not have access to their own private vehicles or other private
- 15 transportation options; and
- WHEREAS, Some of the State's mass transit systems currently may promote
- 17 mass transit usage by the elderly and some of the other more vulnerable members of
- 18 our community through fare discounts or other user-friendly programs; and
- 19 WHEREAS, It is likely that the adoption of targeted, user-friendly policies to
- 20 promote mass transit usage by children, youth, and families may not have
- 21 detrimental fiscal implications for the State's mass transit systems but rather
- 22 enhance the fiscal operations of those systems; now, therefore,
- 23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
- 24 MARYLAND, That:
- 25 (a) The General Assembly of Maryland requests the Maryland Department of
- 26 Transportation, in conjunction with the local mass transit agencies throughout the
- 27 State, consult with one another to evaluate and, where fiscally and programmatically
- 28 feasible, adopt and implement policies that encourage and promote the usage of mass
- 29 transit by children, youth, and families.
- 30 (b) In formulating any proposed policies and recommendations to promote
- 31 increased mass transit usage by children, youth, and families, the Department and
- 32 local mass transit agencies consult with other interested parties and hold public
- 33 hearings to gather information and to receive ideas and recommendations.
- 34 (c) The Department shall report the findings and recommendations developed
- 35 by it and the local transit agencies to the Governor, and as provided in § 2-1246 of the
- 36 State Government Article, to the General Assembly by October 1, 2000.
- 37 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
- 38 June 1, 2000.